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[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/72/420/Add.2)*]

72/217. Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action),[2] the Mauritius Declaration[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[4] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway)[5] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[6] including chapter VII, on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10–14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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Reaffirming also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[7]

Reaffirming further its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling the outcome documents and decisions of all United Nations conferences and processes related to the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[8]

Recalling also its resolution 71/225 of 21 December 2016 and all relevant previous resolutions,[9]

Welcoming the New Urban Agenda, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016,[10]

Reaffirming its resolution 71/243 of 21 December 2016 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in which it urged the United Nations development system to enhance its support for the implementation of, inter alia, the Samoa Pathway and called upon the entities of the development system to integrate and mainstream it fully into their operational activities for development,

Reaffirming also that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development, and recognizing the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, while stressing that, in the absence of international cooperation, achieving success will remain difficult,

Recognizing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, and reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters,

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[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[9] See resolutions 70/202, 69/288, 69/217 and 69/15.

[10] Resolution 71/256, annex.

Acknowledging that climate change and sea level rise continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for some, represent the gravest threat to their survival and viability,

Taking note of the various initiatives embodying the important relationship between the ocean and climate change, including the Ocean Pathway initiative, launched on the margins of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Recalling the call upon all stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development by, inter alia, accelerating actions to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris, plastics and microplastics, nutrient pollution, untreated wastewater, solid waste discharges, hazardous substances, pollution from ships and abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear, while at the same time recognizing that small island developing States are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of marine pollution,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement[11] and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Reaffirming that oceans and seas, along with coastal areas, form an essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are intrinsically linked to sustainable development, and reaffirming also that healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for, inter alia, poverty eradication, access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, and represent an important element of identity and culture for the people of small island developing States,

Recalling its resolution 71/312 of 6 July 2017 in which it endorsed the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted by the high-level United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 5 to 9 June 2017, coinciding with World Oceans Day on 8 June, and in this regard reaffirming the important role of the declaration in demonstrating the collective will to take action to conserve and sustainably use our oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and recognizing the important contributions of the partnership dialogues and voluntary commitments made in the context of that Conference to the effective and timely implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14,

Recognizing that health is a precondition for, and an outcome and indicator of, all three dimensions of sustainable development and that the Samoa Pathway calls for policies and programmes to ensure better health, and recognizing also the need for the prevention, detection and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases and for quality essential health-care services, while also reducing the health-related impacts resulting from natural and man-made disasters in small island developing States,

Reaffirming the importance of the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework and the progress made, including through the Steering Committee on

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[11] Adopted under the UNFCCC in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21.

[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Partnerships for Small Island Developing States and the second annual global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 7 June 2017, as well as the importance and progress of the Small Island Developing States Global Business Network, and the need for its continued coherence with the Partnership Framework,

Welcoming the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development on the theme "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world — taking forward the SAMOA Pathway", held in New York on 12 July 2017,

Recognizing that it is crucial to mobilize resources from all sources for the effective implementation of the Samoa Pathway,

Recognizing also that, in spite of the considerable efforts of small island developing States and the mobilization of their limited resources, their progress in the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy has been uneven, that some have regressed economically and that a number of significant challenges remain,

Noting the decline in correspondent banking relationships experienced by many small island developing States, and looking forward in this regard to the continuing consideration of this issue in forthcoming reports of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, as appropriate and in accordance with existing mandates,

Recognizing the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts, and recalling paragraph 19 of the Samoa Pathway, which calls for strengthening this cooperation,

Reaffirming the need to mainstream sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental aspects, and recognizing their interlinkages, so as to enable small island developing States to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[13]

2. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[5] and urges its speedy and effective implementation, as well as effective monitoring, follow-up and review;

3. *Urges* the full and effective implementation of the commitments and partnerships announced at the Conference and the fulfilment of the provisions on all means of implementation, as contained in the Samoa Pathway;

4. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek solutions, including additional ones, to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner in order to support the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

[13] A/72/214, A/71/267, A/71/267/Add.1 and A/70/269.

5. *Recalls* the sustainable development priorities for small island developing States identified in the Samoa Pathway and set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[14] as well as the outcome documents of all related United Nations conferences and processes, and recognizes the interlinkages between them;

6. *Also recalls* paragraph 16 of its resolution 71/225, notes that the high-level political forum on sustainable development shall devote adequate time at its 2018 meeting and at its future meetings to continuing to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States and the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and encourages the high-level political forum to devote sufficient attention to these discussions, bearing in mind that small island developing States are a special case for sustainable development, as well as to lessons learned from the follow-up and review processes of previous conferences on small island developing States and their outcome documents;

7. *Reiterates* the call, made in the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action",[15] for action to be taken, on an urgent basis, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

8. *Encourages* the full implementation of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, which was launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 4 July 2017;

9. *Welcomes* the many ongoing initiatives and programmes in support of the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States and of the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and encourages other initiatives in this regard;

10. *Acknowledges* in this regard that small island developing States are committed to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and are mobilizing resources at the national and regional levels to that effect, despite their limited resource base, and calls upon the international community to assist and support small island developing States in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including by integrating its provisions into their national and regional policies and development frameworks;

11. *Welcomes* the initial efforts undertaken by the Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework to monitor and ensure full implementation of the pledges and commitments through partnerships for small island developing States and to ensure that partnerships focus on the priorities of those States, identify new opportunities to advance their sustainable development and ensure the full implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and in this regard calls upon the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States of the Secretariat to continue to enhance the necessary analytical and advocacy support for the work of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States, and, in particular, to ensure an annual action-oriented, results-focused global multi-stakeholder small island developing States partnership dialogue;

12. *Urges* all partners to integrate the Samoa Pathway into their respective cooperation frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure its effective follow-up and implementation;

13. *Urges* entities of the United Nations system to mainstream, within the realm of their mandates, the Samoa Pathway into their respective strategic plans and frameworks, and encourages all relevant stakeholders to make available sufficient and

[14] Resolution 70/1.

[15] Resolution 71/312, annex.

predictable resources for the effective and accelerated implementation of the Samoa Pathway;

14. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other multilateral development partners to continue to support small island developing States in their efforts to implement national sustainable development strategies and programmes by incorporating the priorities and activities of small island developing States into their relevant strategic and programmatic frameworks, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework process, at both the national and regional levels, in line with their mandates and overall priorities;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations system to support the efforts of small island developing States to strengthen their cooperation on building resilience and on enhancing action with regard to adaptation to climate change;

16. *Underlines* the need to give due consideration to the issues and concerns of small island developing States in all relevant major United Nations conferences and processes;

17. *Recalls* the need to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes;

18. *Takes note* of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States: final findings", prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/288 of 8 June 2015;[16]

19. *Underscores* the important role of the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in supporting small island developing States, in accordance with their respective mandates, including those under the Samoa Pathway and other intergovernmentally agreed documents and resolutions, and urges their improved coordination and collaboration;

20. *Notes* the initial findings of the Joint Inspection Unit that resources have not increased over a period during which the mandates of the Small Island Developing States Unit and the Office of the High Representative have significantly expanded, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, on an exceptional basis, without setting a precedent and within existing resources, a transparent and clearly substantiated needs assessment resulting from the evolving mandates of the relevant programmes and subprogrammes of the Secretariat and to ensure the allocation of the resources required to adequately respond to the mandates in support of the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative to support the sustainable development agenda of the small island developing States through the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States, and takes note of the terms of reference adopted at its recent meeting to enhance coherence and effective coordination between United Nations agencies and relevant stakeholders and improve communication and consultation with Member States;

22. *Recommends* that the United Nations system continue to work towards ensuring that the activities in support of sustainable development of small island developing States, within the mandate of each entity, are aligned with the priorities

[16] See A/72/119 and A/72/119/Add.1.

of those States to foster the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;

23. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 70/299 of 29 July 2016, and urges the United Nations system to take effective measures to reduce the reporting burden on small island developing States through coherent, coordinated and effective linkages between the follow-up and review arrangements for the Samoa Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other intergovernmentally agreed outcomes;

24. *Urges* the international community to support small island developing States in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, in line with provisions of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, as appropriate to national contexts, with a view to supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda;

25. *Urges* United Nations system entities to coordinate the planning and implementation of their capacity-building activities in close consultation with the small island developing States and all development partners so as to strengthen effectiveness and efficiency in providing support to achieve the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Agenda, while avoiding saturation of the absorptive capacity of small island developing States at the country level;

26. *Requests* United Nations system entities, including the international financial institutions, to actively contribute, within their respective mandates, to addressing the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States, including through a more holistic approach for concessional financing so as to enable better access to financing for development for small island developing States;

27. *Reaffirms* its decision to convene a one-day high-level review, at United Nations Headquarters in September 2019, to review progress made in addressing the priorities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, which will result in a concise, action-oriented and intergovernmentally agreed political declaration, and decides to consider further the modalities of the review before the end of its seventy-second session;

28. *Decides* to convene, in 2018, regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in their respective regions, as well as an interregional meeting for all small island developing States, in order to undertake a review of progress in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway at the national and regional levels, and also decides that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, should organize, facilitate and provide necessary support to the review process at the national, regional and international levels;

29. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the small island developing States in the high-level review process, and in this regard invites Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders and donors to contribute to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States in participating fully and effectively in the high-level review and the various preparatory processes;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, a report on the follow-up to and implementation of the Samoa Pathway, including progress made and continuing challenges faced, and the implementation of the present resolution and, in preparing that report, to consult with Member States as well as the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the

specialized agencies and regional commissions, as appropriate, taking into account the work carried out by the entities of the United Nations system, as well as all relevant national, regional and subregional organizations, with a view to taking stock and analysing progress, and to include a section summarizing actions taken and planned to strengthen the coordination and complementarity of the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the High Representative in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-third session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States", unless otherwise agreed.

74th plenary meeting
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